Numb. 19.

THE REHEARSAL Of Obſervator, &c.

Some more of Sir George Rook. *And of* Addreſſes. *Of* New-Faſhion'd *TESTS, for* Elections *and* Churches.

From Saturday December the 2d, to Saturday December the 9th, 1704.

Country-m. IN thy *Obſervator* of laſt *November* 22. N. 71. And again N. 73. Thou mak'ſt me *Have at Sir* George Rook again, and *Gibraltar*. Muſt we never have done with that *Old Song*? I thought the Clear and Plain *Account* I had given of Matter of *Fact* in my former *Rehearſals*, againſt the *Falſe* and *Malicious ASPERSIONS* of my *former* Maſter *Obſervator* againſt that *Honourable Gentleman*, wou'd have *Silenc'd* theſe *Clamours* for the future. And I can ſtill ſay more, if it be needful. The *Victory* at *La Hogue* was put in Ballance againſt Sir *George Rook*, his Taking of *Gibraltar*, and *Victory* over the *French Fleet* laſt Summer, and all that ever he did in his Life. Whereas in my *Rehearſal*. N. 8. I ſhew'd out of K. *William's Life*, That Sir *George* was not only in that *Action* at *La Hogue*, but that he was the chief *Actor* in it. But notwithſtanding, I have heard ſeveral *Diſputes*, and *ſtand it out*, That Sir *George* was not *There*. And they Pretended to tell at what other *Place* he was at that time. For they Believ'd the *Obſervators*, rather than him who Wrote K. *William's Life*. They were *Reſolv'd* to *Believe*! Nay, they made me *Believe* it too for a while, by their *Intolerable IMPUDENT Aſſurance*! Sure there never was ſuch a *Generation* of *Men* ſince the *World* was made, for *Lying* and *Believing*!

Therefore I have got other *Evidence*, which I ſuppoſe cannot be *Reſiſted*. It is Mr. *Burchet*, who is *Secretary* to my Lord *Orford*, and cannot be ſuſpected of *Partiality* towards Sir *George Rook*, or to have given to any other the *Honour* that belong'd to his *Maſter*. And he in his *Memoirs of Tranſactions at Sea*, p. 145, 146. ſpeaking of this Great *Action* at *La Hogue*, 1692, tells, That it was Sir *George Rook*, then *Vice-Admiral* of the *Blew*, who *went in himſelf with the Boats, and Burnt 6 of the French Ships that Night, and about 8 the next Morning Burnt the other 7, together with ſeveral Tranſport Ships, and ſome ſmall Veſſels with Ammunition*, &c.

And ſpeaking of Sir *George's* Greater *Action* at *Vigo*, 1702, he makes it of more *Conſequence* than even that at *La Hogue*, And ſays in his *Epiſtle* to the *Reader*, p. 25, 26. *That the French will not be Able to Repair this Loſs with that Expedition they did the Blow given them the laſt War at* LA HOGUE *and* CHERBROOK.

But I have more than this ſtill. For in the *London Gazette* of *May* 30. 1692. It is told, that it was *Vice-Admiral ROOK*, who Perform'd that Great *Action* at *La Hogue*, which *was very difficult and dangerous*, with *ſuch Conduct and Reſolution.*

And this *Service* was thought ſo very *Conſiderable*, That K. *William* Gave Sir *George* a *Penſion* for it of a *Thouſand Pounds* a *Year*, which he Enjoys to this Day.

Yet I have heard ſome of theſe *Lying Devils* ſay, That Sir *George Rook* never ſaw a *Sword* Drawn, or a *Gun* Fir'd in Anger in his Life.

Whereas, ſince he firſt went a *Volunteer* to *Sea*, there has hardly been *One*, if *Any*, conſiderable *Engagement*, were he was not Preſent. And always *Behav'd* with Equal *Bravery*, and *Conduct*. In the *Memoirs* of Mr. *Burchet* before mention'd, we find Sir *George* in *Ireland*, the year 1690, p. 25, *&c.* At *La Hogue*, in 1692. p. 145. At *Lagos Bay*, 1693. p. 187. At *Cadiz*, 1695. p. 287, *&c.* At *Camaret*, 1696, p. 342. And at *Vigo*, 1702.

To thoſe who Know theſe things, this *Vindication* will appear *Ridiculous*, becauſe they muſt ſuppoſe no body ſo *Ignorant* in *England*, and ſo *Malicious* together, as to *Deny* what is ſo *Notorious*! But ſuch *Malice* there is, and many are *Deluded* by it!

How many *Obſervators* have been ſpent upon Sir *G. Rook*; And Reflecting upon his *Skill* in *Sea-Affairs*, as well as on his *Courage*; And how many of the *Mobb* through *England*, ſwallow up all the *Obſervator* ſays, as *Goſpel*? The *Miſchief* of this, in more *Inſtances* than this, is not Eaſie to be Imagin'd! All the Vile *Aſperſions* in the *Obſervators* upon the *Government* and *Miniſtry*, upon the *Houſe* of *Commons*, ſome of the *Biſhops* and *Clergy*, the *Judges* and *Civil Officers*, are taken for *Granted* by the *Obſequious HERD*, and their *Tempers* are *Sour'd* and *Prejudic'd* againſt the whole *Adminiſtration*, both in *Church* and *State*. This ſhews it ſelf *Flagrantly* upon *Elections*, and all other *Occaſions*, Daily *more* and *more*!

And to ſhew an *Inſtance* of it in the *Caſe* now before us, The *Inveteracy* of that *Party* has Purſu'd Sir *George Rook* ſo *Implacably*, and with ſuch *Induſtry*, That his *Name* is now become a *Teſt*, even in *Addreſſes*! And to Name *Him*, without ſome *LESSNING Diſtinction*, is to be that *Scandalous* Thing call'd a *Church-man*! And ſome will Rather *Drop* their *Addreſs*, and *ſtand out* in the General *Congratulations* of the *Nation*, than have the *Name* of Sir *George Rook* ſeen in what comes from *Them*! Leſt they ſhou'd be Thought True *Church-men*! And it is more agreeable to *ſuch*, to let the *Victory* go on the *French* ſide (ſince

Victory

Victory it must be, on one side or other) than to Give it to the *English*, by the means of Sir *George Rook*, that is, of a *Church-man*! For which Reason my Lord Duke of *Marlborough* must come in for his Share too. And he is *Engen'd NOW Again*! See before in *Rehearsal*. N. 8. where the *Duke* of *Marlborough*'s Health was Drank.

But as it is no small *Honour* to his *Grace*, and to Sir *George Rook*, to be thus *Mark'd* out as most *Faithful* to the *Church*, and to the *Queen*: So it is hop'd, That the *Clamours* of *Both* their *Enemies* will not suffer them, or either of them, to *yield* the *Victory* to those who *seek* it, by trying if they can *Talk* them out of their *Places*; and so to Deprive the *Church* and her *Majesty* of their *Services* (when they stand most in need) meerly to *Gratify* and *Strengthen* their *Enemies*, who wou'd have it so! He who cannot be *Beaten* from his *Post*, will Disdain to be *Laugh'd* or *Scolded* out of it!

What *Admiral* that ever *England* had, has done more Signal services to the *Nation* than Sir *George Rook*? Besides *La-Hogue*, *Vigo*, and Driving the *Naval Powers* of *France* and *Spain* (who came out in Pursuit of *Victory*) back into their *Harbours*, with an Inferior *Number*; was *Gibraltar* nothing? Is it not of as near Importance to *Spain*, as *Landau* is to *France*? And do not the *Spaniards* think so, by the Attempts they have made to *Recover* it? And shall any scruple to call this a *Victory*?

And can the Worst of Sir *George*'s Enemies give any other *Reason* against him, than that he is a *Church-man*? And that he will be neither an *Occasionalist*, nor a *Whigg*?

And is this the *Un-Pardonable Sin*, for which he must not be *Protected* so much as from the *Foul-Mouth* of a *Nasty Observator*, to be by him *Trumpetted* through the *Kingdom*.

But *Admiral Rook* may take this the more Patiently, when he sees, That *Greater* than he are Treated after the same *Ignominious* Rate, the *Lord High Admiral* by *Name*, and the *Queen* by *Innuendo's*, as I have fully shew'd in my *Rehearsals*, with the *House* of *Commons*, and all in the *Legislature*, and *Ministry*, whom they suspect to have any Regard to the *Church*, or to the *Monarchy*. But above All, the *Duke* and *Dutchess* of *Marleborough* are Expos'd in the *Vilest* and most *Opprobrious* Manner!

And it is the Greatest *Honour* to Sir *G. Rook*, to stand Next to *Them*, the *Butt*, the *Envy*, and *Grievance* of a *Party*; Who cannot make their *Way* to the *Destruction* (once more) of the *Church* and the *Crown*, unless they can compass his *Removal*.

And his standing in the *Gap*, at this Time, and Maintaining his *Post*, is the Noblest *Campaign* ever he made, and against the most dangerous *Enemy*, and will be the most Considerable *Service* ever he Render'd to his *Country*; after having *Conquer'd* for them *Abroad*, to *Rescue* them from *Destruction* at *Home*. And his being made a *Test* in this *Case*, is a more Glorious *Distinction* of *Honour*, than any can be found in the *Herald*'s Office, and will be More *Lasting*. And we hope he will not be *Weary* or *Asham'd* of it. He who so often has *Fac'd* the *Fury* of the two most *Raging ELEMENTS*, Joyn'd with the most *Potent ENEMIES* upon *Earth*, cannot be *Shaken* at the *Barking* of *Impotent CURRS*; who are no Otherwise *Considerable*, than by the *Filthy NOISE* they Make. And are as soon Conquer'd, as *Looke* upon. But are never *Weary* in Running after *Heels*.

And he cannot lay it to Heart, that the Government does not *Protect* him from T... When he sees, That they (I will not say) c... *not*, but for Whatever Reasons at Present, think not fit to *Protect* themselves! He Suffers FOR the *Government*, and *WITH* it.

And it wou'd be a far Greater *Reproach* to him (as it has been to *Others*) if these Men spoke *Well* of him. For then We wou'd Inquire, Why? What *Evil* hath he Done?

Obj. Thou tak'st all the Talk to thy self. I shall not have leave to put in a Word. Must we speak of Nothing but Sir *G. Rook*? What's thy *Concern* for him?

Country-m. As I told thee before, I know him not at all, but by Sight. Nor have any *Concern* with him. But when he is made a *Test* by a *Party*, it is Every bodies *Concern* to look into the *Bottom* of it, and see the *Cause* of it. It then becomes a *NATIONAL Concern*.

And I can tell thee of more *Tests* than this, set up by the same *Party*, to *Enflame* the *Nation*. I'll Read thee a *Letter* Dated from *Northampton*, *Nov.* 13. 1704. And subscrib'd by Gentlemen of undoubted *Reputation* and *Credit*. It is in these words, *In this Town there was an Election to Choose a Member in the Room of Mr.* Tate *deceas'd, on the 2d Instant; The Candidates were Mr.* Arundel, *Jun. and Mr.* Montague. *Mr.* Arundel *Carry'd it by above* 140 *Majority, altho' the whole number of Electors is but about* 800. *The Day before the Election, two DISSENTERS, the most substantial of that Body, came to Mr.* Arundel, *Pretending to be sent by the whole Body of the DISSENTERS, to offer him their Votes and Interest, upon Condition he wou'd Promise to Oppose the BILL to Prevent OCCASIONAL CONFORMITY. Upon Mr.* Arundel's *Refusing to make any such Promise, there was a Story run through the whole WHIGG Party, viz. That Mr.* Arundel *was Resolv'd to Promote and set forward that BILL as much as in him lay. Tho' he said no such thing. This did him some small Injury, but nevertheless he Carry'd the Election as before set down. This we call the NEW STATE TEST. We have had lately within* 5 *Miles of this Town a NEW CHURCH TEST, which Agrees very well with the foregoing Story, in short it was thus. The Patron of a Certain Living in this Country, Refus'd to give the Presentation to the Person that made Application to him for it, unless he wou'd Promise to Vote as a certain Person in that Dioceses shou'd Direct him.* The *Names* of the *Persons* I have, but I forbear.

And in another *Letter* from thence Dated *November* 11. wherein there is an Account of the foresaid *Election* and *Tests*, the Gentleman says to his Friend: *Sir, I receiv'd your last, and wou'd have Acknowleg'd your favour before, but really our Trouble and Frights have been very Great, for we have had no less than* 4 *Fires within* 50 *yards of my House, in no less than* 6 *weeks; And I am in Daily Apprehension of further Mischief, there being such Circumstances in it, that it looks as if they were done on Purpose to Fire the whole Town. In short, we are all so Frighted, that we durst not sleep in our Beds, having been so often wak'd out of our Sleeps, and been forc'd to sit up all Night. God preserve us all, desiring your Prayers to God for us. I am yours,* &c.

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